



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street ☐ Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor ☐ Nelson J. Sabatini, Secretary

Community and Public Health Administration

Diane Matsuzak, MD, MPH, Director

Richard Stringer, Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 12, 2003 **HO # 03-043**

To: Health Officers
Nursing Directors
Communicable Disease Directors
Environmental Health Directors

From: Leslie Edwards, MHS
Acting Chief, Division of Outbreak Investigation

Thru: David Blythe, MD, MPH
Acting State Epidemiologist

Re: Smallpox vaccine for monkeypox investigators

Although no monkeypox cases have been identified in Maryland and we have no information to suggest monkeypox-infected prairie dogs (or other monkeypox-infected animals) have been distributed in Maryland, we request health departments remain vigilant for cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently published guidance about the effectiveness of a recent smallpox vaccination in providing protection for people exposed to the monkeypox virus. The attached CDC guidelines "Interim Guidance for Use of Smallpox Vaccine, Cidofovir, and VIG for Prevention and Treatment in the Setting of an Outbreak of Monkeypox Infections" states that pre-exposure smallpox vaccination is highly effective ($\geq 85\%$) in protecting persons exposed to monkeypox from disease.

Note that CDC recommends that investigative personnel who may have close contact with potentially monkeypox-infected humans or animals should be vaccinated against smallpox.

In accordance, we recommend that you do the following:

- Identify the personnel at your local health department who have received the smallpox vaccine in the past 3 years.
- Among these persons, identify those who could promptly help investigate monkeypox illnesses among humans and animals, if needed.

410-767-5300 ☐ Fax 410-333-7106

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH ☐ TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us

If you identify an animal that should be evaluated for monkeypox infection please IMMEDIATELY contact the Center for Veterinary Public Health (410-767-5649) during business hours or page the EDCP on-call staff member at 410-716-8194 after hours. Likewise, if you identify a human that may have monkeypox please IMMEDIATELY contact EDCP at 410-767-6700 during business hours or page the EDCP on-call person after hours.

If you have any questions about the monkeypox outbreak in the midwestern United States, please contact the Division of Outbreak Investigation (410-767-6677) or the Center for Veterinary Public Health (410-767-5649).

Attachments (1)

cc: A. Stephenson
D. Matsuzak
R. Stringer
J. Krick
D. Blythe
J. Roche